

Lake Park. They have built partnerships with the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department to implement new programs such as the White Rock 'n' Roll Run and, have created "Litter-free Louie," a mascot to help educate others on the importance of keeping our lake clean. I am proud to be associated with this valuable organization and am grateful for all that they do for White Rock Lake Park and the city of Dallas.

Madam Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in recognizing their passion and hard work.

#### HONORING READERS' BOOKS, OF SONOMA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Readers' Books, which has been named the 2007 Sonoma Valley Business of the Year. This store has become an institution for Sonoma and the surrounding communities as a source not simply of literature, but intellectual fulfillment in many different forms.

Sixteen years ago, Andy and Lilla Weinberger dropped by my office to run an idea past me: they wanted to move into the Bay Area, and were hoping to open a bookstore that would do more than sell books. They imagined a location for the community to gather to enjoy books and hear authors, but also to serve as a forum for local issues and current events. Sonoma was suggested, and after a visit they were off and running.

Readers' Books has been an incredible resource to the community over the last 16 years, and has played host to a wide variety of groups and events. The Weinbergers have supported programs for young and old, such as sponsoring authors at the Vintage House Senior Center. They have worked to bring many of these authors into schools to read for students, and have helped serve as judges for a students' writing contest. Similarly, they provide a meeting space for many community groups, and offer the store as a forum for political discussion, including an impartial explanation of ballot measures around election time.

Readers' Books exemplifies the importance of independent stores for the sense of community in a town. Despite the rise of chain stores and Internet shopping, Readers' Books and small, independent stores like it continue to offer an irreplaceable location not just for shopping, but for communities to come together.

Readers' Books is indeed a wonderful bookstore. With a friendly staff happy to step forward with assistance or recommendations, the Weinbergers have created a bibliophile's heaven. If something isn't available from their selection, they can help a customer find it quickly and efficiently.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate Andy and Lilla Weinberger on the occasion of Readers' Books being named the 2007 Business of the Year. They are truly pillars of their community, and we have all greatly benefited from the wonderful store they started 16 years ago.

#### HONORING VIOLET HEINTZ

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Violet Heintz upon being named one of "The 2007 Women of Distinction" by The Fresno County and City Republican Women Federated.

Mrs. Heintz served on the Fresno County Board of Education for 32 years. She has demonstrated her lifelong commitment to community service through numerous education projects and community activities benefiting the children of Fresno County. Her dedication to education advancements led Mrs. Heintz to serve on the original governing board and licensee for the local television channel KVPT Channel 18. KVPT is better known as Valley Public Television and is one of only 14 channels in California that is part of the Public Broadcasting System. The mission of the station is to "deliver information through broadcast programming and related services to enhance and promote life long learning." This is also the mission of Mrs. Heintz. She has served on the Fresno County Trustees Association's Executive Board, the Central Valley Technology Center committee and the Fresno County Educator of the Year committee.

Her involvement in and contributions to the community have been recognized through many awards, including; the Fresno County Association of California School Administrator's Golden Apple Award, California and National PTA Honorary Service Award, Women of the Year finalist, Fresno County Status of Women, Phi Delta Kappa Community Education Award, the William E. Nili Scholarship Service Award, and the Alison Berg Award. In recognition of her timeless service, on April 23, 1999, The Elkhorn Correctional Facility Boot Camp in Fresno County was dedicated in her honor. The school is now called the Violet Heintz Education Academy. The Academy is designed to educate students that have been committed by the Juvenile Court to a long-term program for non-violent offenders. This dedication is a tribute to all of the great things that Mrs. Heintz has done for the Fresno County Department of Education.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Violet Heintz upon being awarded "The 2007 Women of Distinction". I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Heintz many years of continued success.

#### COMMEMORATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE GROVE MONTHLY MEETING OF RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS IN PASADENA, CA

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Religious Society of Friends in Pasadena, CA.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends was founded in 1907 by a group of 20

Eastern Quakers who had moved to Pasadena. Quakers have played leading roles in working for peace and an end to war, promoting racial and gender equality, and supporting environmental and other social justice causes. After World War I, the Meeting members supported the American Friends Service Committee, AFSC, which engaged in post-war relief efforts in Western Europe and Russia, and also helped establish AFSC's Pacific Coast branch.

During World War II, the Meeting house served as a hostel for Japanese-Americans being sent to internment camps, and aid was sent to those already interned. The Meeting members provided hospitality and financial support to area conscientious objectors and their families, and after the end of the war, hosted families displaced by the war and its aftermath.

Meeting members have frequently led the way in civil rights and social justice movements. Meeting members took part in efforts to desegregate the Pasadena school system, participated in freedom rides in the South and attended the Selma, AL, protests.

The Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends founded educational institutions that provide a nurturing educational environment for children. Pacific Ackworth Friends School (1942) and Pacific Oaks School (1945) were established by Meeting parents. In 1961, Mara Moser, an Orange Grove Friends member, established Mothers' Club to support families of men in prison. Mothers' Club later evolved into a child development and family center serving low-income families.

Members of the Orange Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends are active participants in the community. Meeting members routinely provide dinner for the homeless at Union Station in Pasadena, participate in many prison visitation programs and allow the meeting house to be used by local groups for activities such as a tutoring program for elementary school children.

It is my pleasure to recognize the Orange Grove Friends Meeting of Pasadena on its 100th anniversary of active participation in the life of our community. I ask all members to join me in extending a hearty congratulations.

#### HONORING NANCY GARDNER, OF SONOMA

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 15, 2007*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Nancy Gardner, who is leaving the North Bay Regional Center after 15 years as that group's executive director. She is moving on to serve as CEO of Guide Dogs for the Blind, but she leaves behind an organization that she has developed into an incredible resource for people with developmental disabilities, families, and our community.

Ms. Gardner was born in Kansas, and graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in psychology. She received a master's degree in special education and human development from the University of Kansas in 1976 before moving to California and working for with NBRC from